

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2011-0042-EA

Lease/Serial Case File No.

Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office

Proposed Action Title/Type: National Trails Day event near Dolan Springs, Arizona

Location of Proposed Action: T. 24N., R. 20-21W.,
T. 25N., R. 19-21W.,
T. 26N., R. 18-19-W.,

Applicant (if any): Dolan Springs Community Council-Open Space Trail System and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kingman Field Office (KFO).

CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN:

This proposed action is in conformance with the Kingman Resource Management Plan approved March 1995. The proposal is also in conformance with the *Wabayuma Peak & Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan*, prepared in 1995. This plan encouraged non-commercial equestrian group sizes in wilderness to not exceed 6 equestrian riders. The proposal is also in conformance with the *Black Mountain Ecosystem Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*, prepared in 1996. This plan authorizes off-highway vehicle use on roads, trails and navigable washes.

- Decision RR16: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the public while continuing the BLM policy of providing dispersed and backcountry recreation.
- Decision RR22: Limit off-highway vehicle use to existing roads, trails and navigable washed on public land not included in Special Recreation Mgt. Areas or designated wilderness.
- Decision TE03: BLM will manage for conservation of candidate and BLM-sensitive species (and State Listed species). BLM will ensure that actions authorized will not contribute to the need to list any of these species as threatened or endangered”.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION:

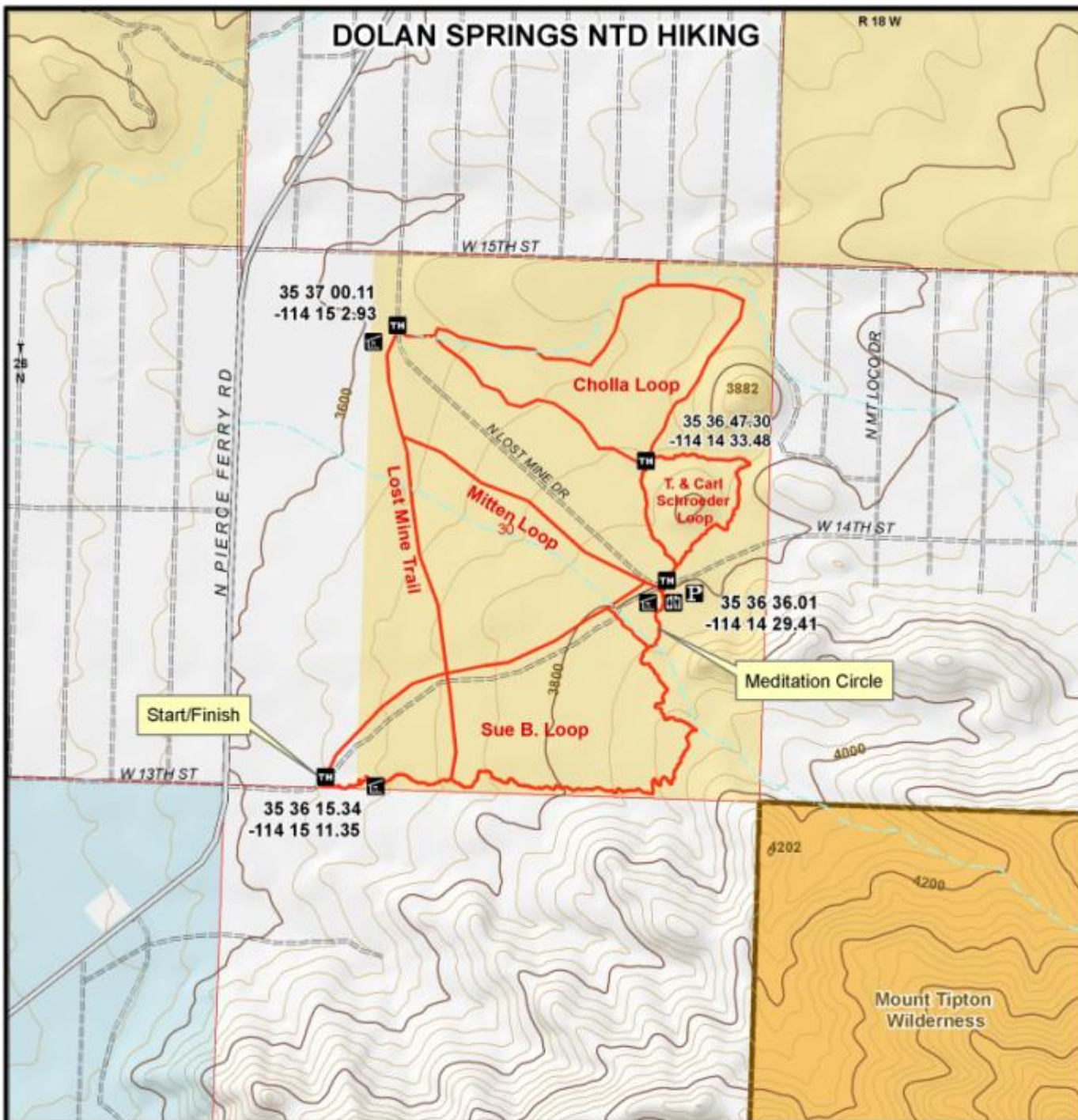
Promote public awareness of recreation opportunities on public lands in the Dolan Springs area.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE:

Conduct guided recreation outings for the general public in recognition of National Trails Day (NTD). This event would be co-sponsored by the Dolan Springs Open Space Committee (DSOSC) and the BLM, KFO on Saturday, October 29, 2011, between the hours of 7 am and 12 noon. Staging would be in downtown Dolan Springs. Separate guided recreation outings are proposed for hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) riders and four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicle drivers. (See Maps) Travel by hiking, mountain bikes, ATVs and 4WDs would be on existing roads and trails, many of which are located on existing county road or trail easements. Equestrian riders would use a combination of existing routes and/or cross-country travel. Each outing would be guided by an experienced group leader. *Guidelines For Handling Desert Tortoise, Rosy Boa and Chuckwalla Encountered on Roads and Vehicle Ways* would be given to the participants. (See Appendix 1) Tread Lightly! and Leave No Trace brochures would be given to the participants.

DOLAN SPRINGS NTD HIKING

R 18 W

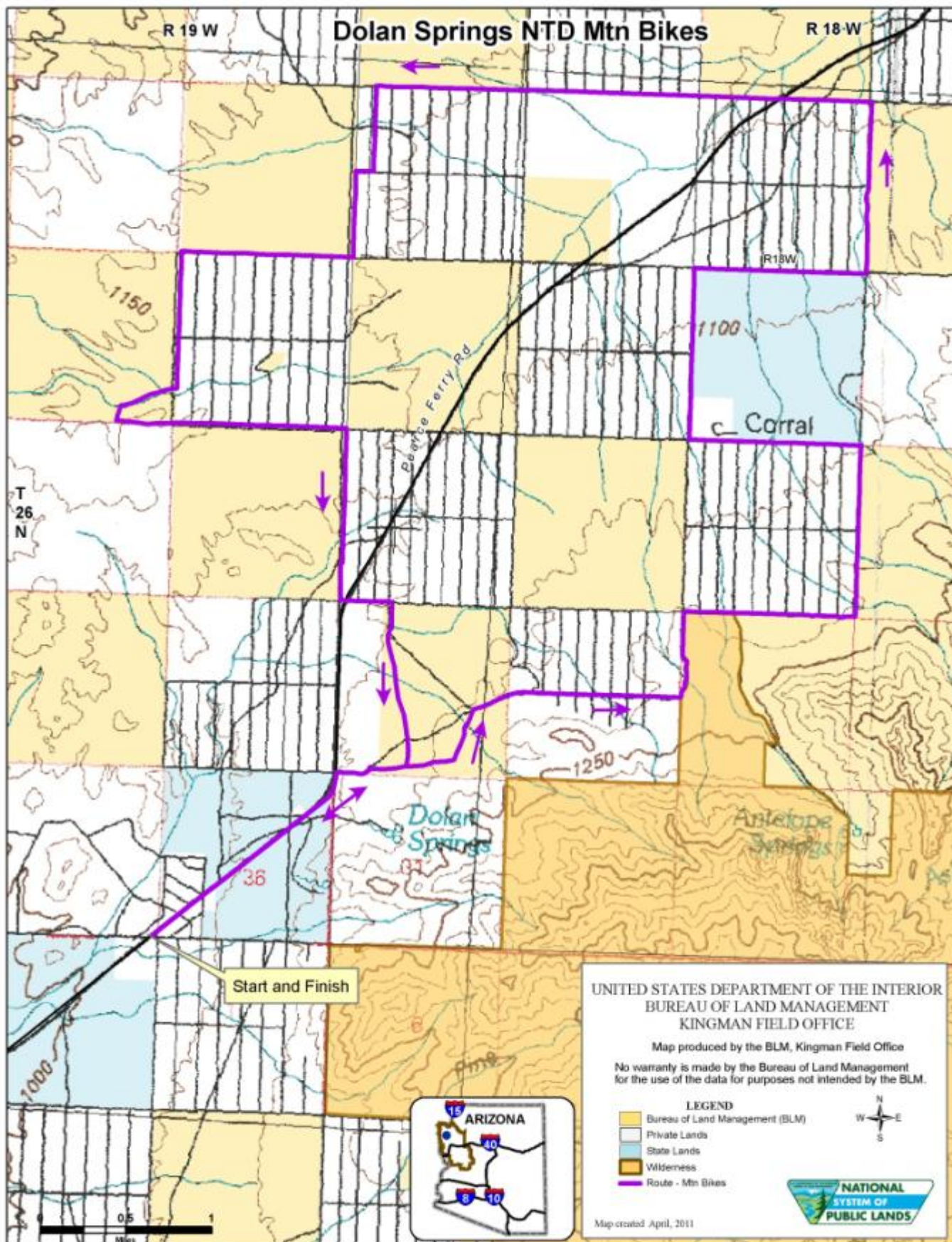


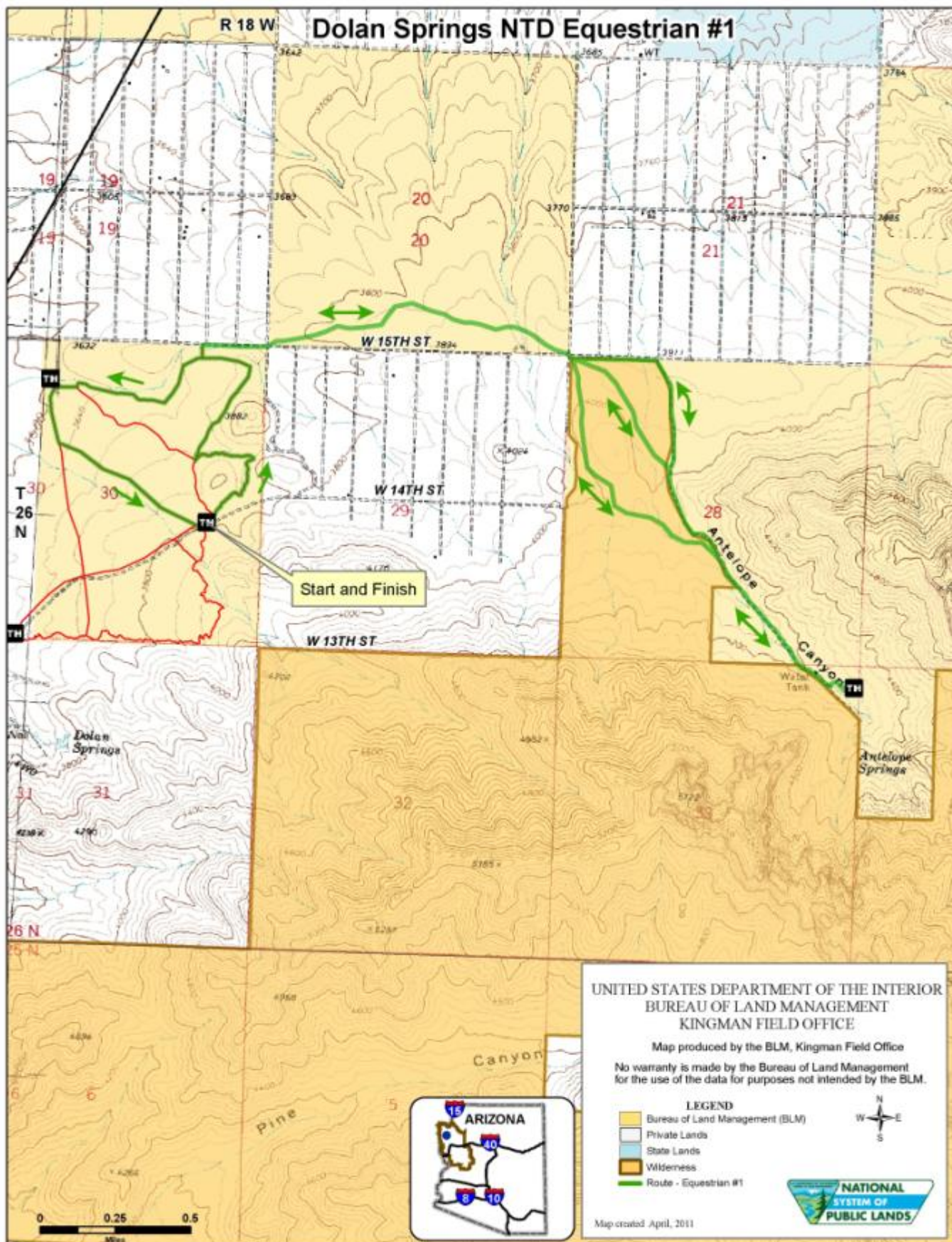
Map Legend

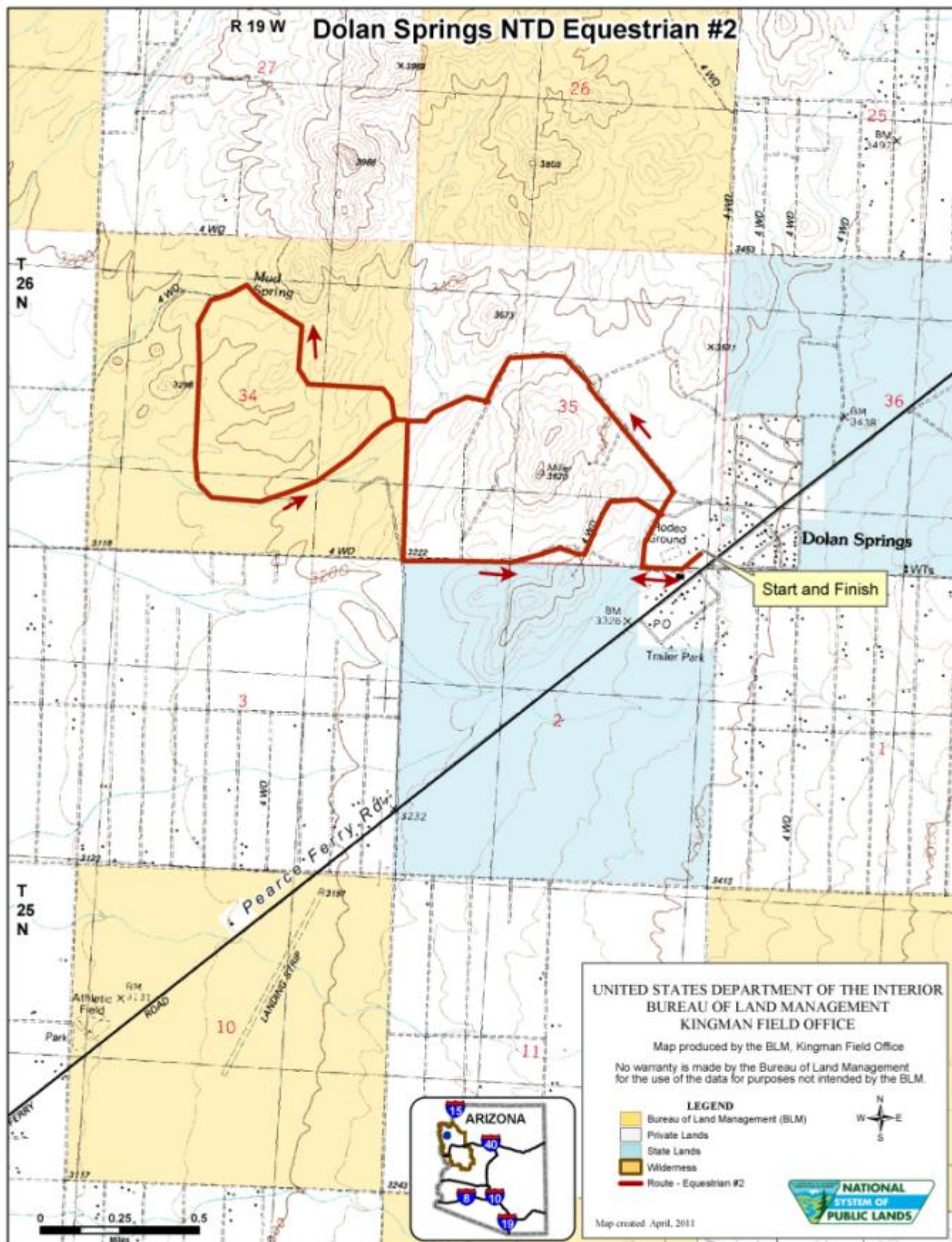
- | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|-------------------|
| | Trail | | BLM Lands |
| | Trailhead | | State Lands |
| | Parking | | Private Lands |
| | Ramada | | Wilderness |
| | Vault Restroom | | |
| | Major Roads | | 40 Foot Contours |
| | Minor Roads | | 200 Foot Contours |

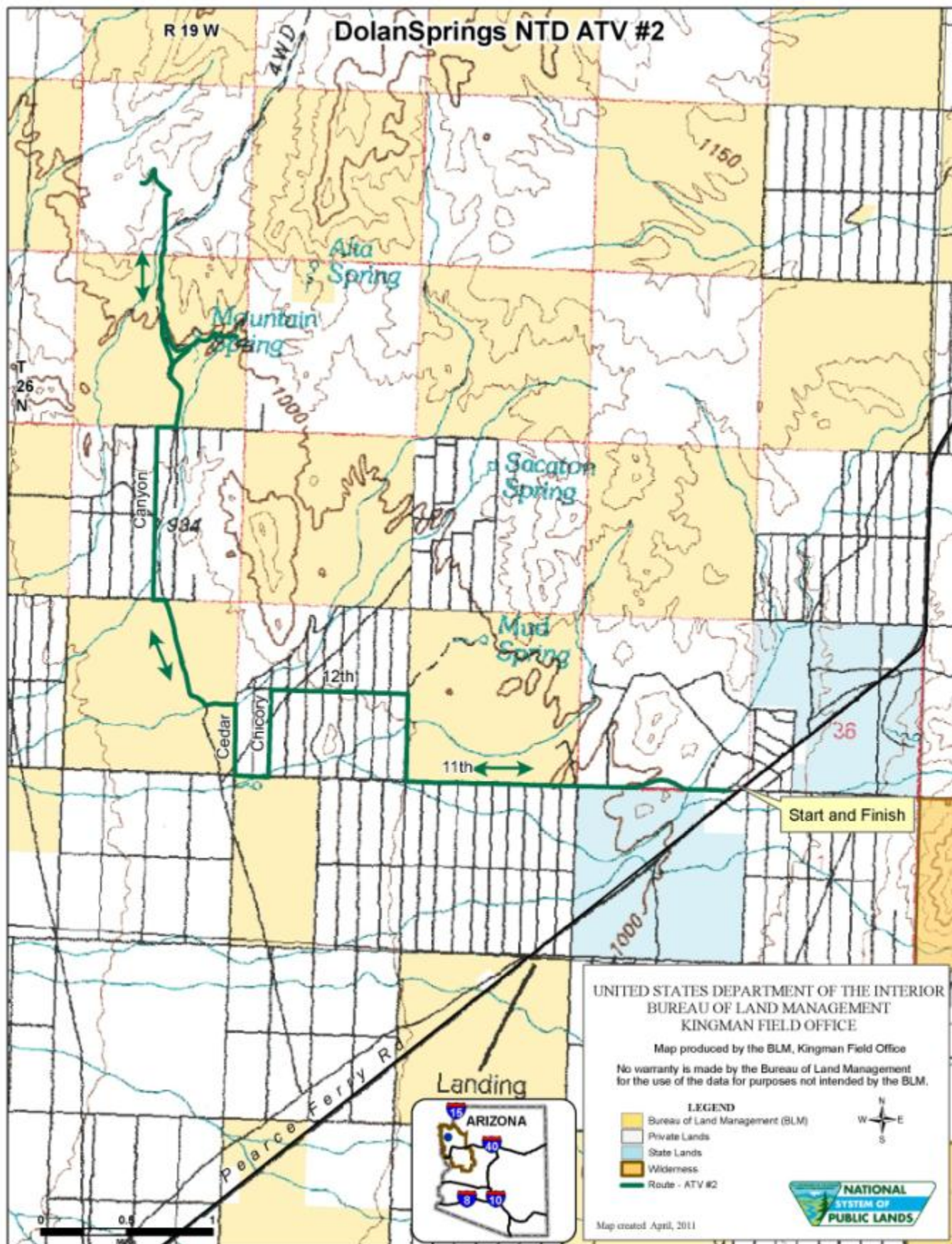
June 2010, NAD83 Zone 12

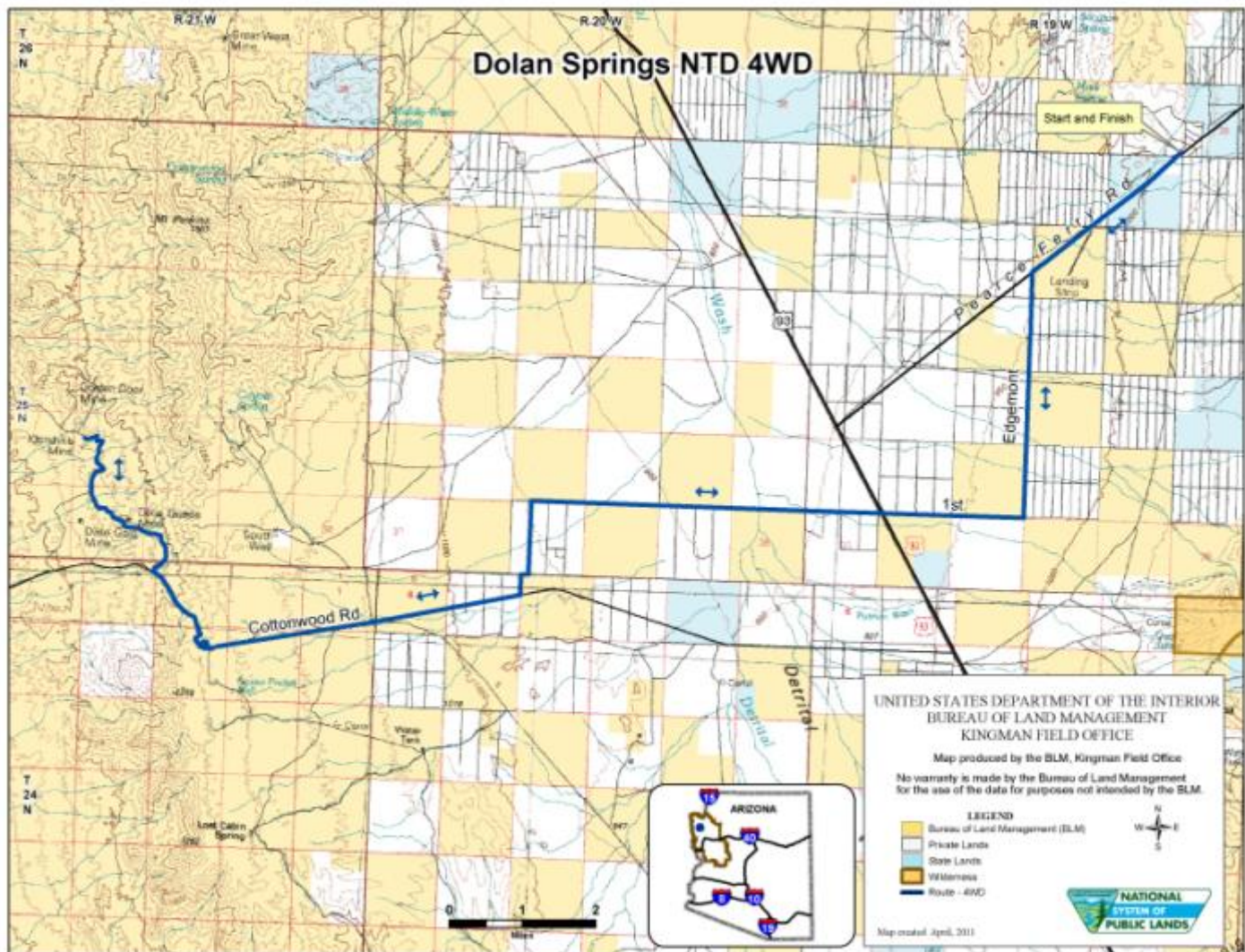












DESCRIPTION OF NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The National Trails Day event would not be conducted.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the KFO Project Scoping Form found in the Administrative Record for this proposal. Resources of concern that are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis will not be discussed here. Resources which could be impacted by the proposed action or alternatives are discussed below.

This section describes the existing conditions of the environment and expected impacts. The table below summarizes the resources reviewed for this project. Resources not present within the project study area, as well as those present and not affected, are not discussed. Those resources that have been identified by an interdisciplinary team as present and potentially affected are discussed further below.

PROJECT RESOURCE review

Resources Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
Air Quality*		✓	
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern* -no surface disturbances would occur as a result of the Proposed Action		✓	
Cultural and Historic*		✓	
Environmental Justice* / Socioeconomics		✓	
Floodplains*		✓	
Grazing		✓	
Hazardous or Solid Waste*	✓		
Invasive and Non-native Species*		✓	
Land Use		✓	
Migratory Birds* Migratory birds are not breeding at this time of the year. Any contact with birds will be temporary lasting only a few minutes.		✓	
Native American Religious Concerns*		✓	
Prime and Unique Farmland*	✓		
Threatened and Endangered Species* see below.		✓	
Vegetation		✓	
Visual Resources		✓	
Water Quality*		✓	
Wetland or Riparian Zones*	✓		
Wild and Scenic Rivers*	✓		
Wilderness*			✓
Wildlife – Temporary contact with wildlife may occur for several minutes as OHV, hikers, or horse riders pass through the planned routes. Tortoise handling guidelines will be passes out to all participants to avoid impacts to the desert tortoise.		✓	

PROJECT RESOURCE review			
Resources Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
* Consideration Required By Law or Executive Order			

Expected impacts from the Proposed Action include the following:

Recreation and Wilderness: Offering people a chance to experience a recreation activity on public lands may increase public support of BLM's land management efforts and could increase public awareness of the value of public land open spaces for recreation use.

Encountering groups of equestrian riders in the area of Antelope Canyon could temporarily decrease the opportunity for solitude for other wilderness visitors who may be using the same area on the morning of the event. The duration of this impact would not exceed two hours and would cease to exist as soon as groups leave the area.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no endangered species within the project area with the exception of the California condor.

California Condor: There will be no effects to the California condor from implantation of the Proposed Action. This species is listed as endangered but in this area this population is considered a Nonessential Experimental Population. Condors could potentially occur in the project area while foraging however they have not been documented in the project area (Peregrine Fund, 2011). There are no historical or known nests or roost sites in this area.

Impacts from the No Action Alternative

If the NTD event is not conducted, BLM would miss an opportunity to promote public awareness of the value of open spaces for recreation on public lands.

Cumulative Impacts

Offering the public a chance to experience a recreation activity on public lands could increase public use of public land open spaces for recreation use.

DESCRIPTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

All participants would maintain a minimum distance of twenty (20) feet from all open mine shafts and adits. During periods of cross-country travel, equestrian riders would be instructed to fan out, rather than trailing each other, to prevent concentration of impacts. Equestrian riders travelling in Mount Tipton Wilderness would be limited to groups not exceeding 6 equestrian riders. (See *Wabayuma Peak & Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan*) All gates would be left open or closed as they are found. All motorized vehicle operators must be licensed and certified. All motorized vehicles would be licensed and permitted per State of Arizona regulations. DSOSC would be required to obtain written authorization from all private property landowners.

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:

This proposal was presented at the KFO NEPA Coordination meeting on August 2, 2011. See attached Scoping Sheet for a list of participating BLM staff.

Preparer: _____ / s / Len Marceau

Len Marceau, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Kingman Field Office

APPENDIX 1



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Kingman Field Office
2755 Mission Boulevard
Kingman, Arizona 86401
www.az.blm.gov



Guidelines For Handling Desert Tortoise, Rosy Boa and Chuckwalla Encountered on Roads, Trails, and Vehicle Ways

1. Stop your vehicle and allow the tortoise, rosy boa or chuckwalla to move off the road or if possible, go around the tortoise or other animal.
2. If the tortoise is not moving, gently** pick up the tortoise and move it approximately 200 feet off the road to a shaded location.
 - a. Do **not** turn the tortoise over.
 - b. Move the tortoise in the direction it was traveling. If it was crossing the road, move it in the direction it was crossing.
 - c. Keep the tortoise within 12-18 inches of the ground, move slowly so as not to cause it to become alarmed.
 - d. Release the tortoise under the shade of a bush or rock.

** Tortoise store water in their bladder. If a tortoise becomes alarmed its defense is to void its bladder onto the captor. This could lead to dehydration of the tortoise and potentially to death.

3. Prior to moving any parked vehicles or equipment at the project site, check for tortoise under the vehicles.



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE

**Dolan Springs Community Council-Open Space Trail System and
Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office
National Trails Day
NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2011-0042-EA**

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The potential impacts that have been identified are localized and are of relatively short duration. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

/ s / Ruben A. Sánchez
Ruben Sanchez
Field Manager, Kingman Field Office

10/20/2011
Date

DECISION RECORD

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE

**Dolan Springs Community Council-Open Space Trail System and
Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office
National Trails Day
NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2011-0042-EA**

It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in Environmental Assessment **DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2011-0042-EA**. This decision would result with the National Trails Day consisting of guided recreation outings in the area of Dolan Springs, Arizona on October 29, 2011 on public land.

Rationale:

My decision to approve the Proposed Action analyzed in **DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2011-0042-EA** is based on the following:

- The Proposed Action has been analyzed, with no significant impacts anticipated, as stated in the FONSI signed on October 20, 2011, thus an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The environmental assessment adequately covers all affected resource values.
- Implementation of the proposed action provides guided recreation outings in the areas of Dolan Springs, Arizona.
- The decision to allow the Proposed Action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation, and is in conformance with the *Kingman Resource Management Plan*.

Mitigation Measures and Stipulations:

- All participants would maintain a minimum distance of twenty (20) feet from all open mine shafts and adits.
- During periods of cross-country travel, equestrian riders would be instructed to fan out, rather than trailing each other, to prevent concentration of impacts.
- Equestrian riders travelling in Mount Tipton Wilderness would be limited to groups not exceeding 6 equestrian riders. (See *Wabayuma Peak & Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan*)
- All gates would be left open or closed as they are found.
- All motorized vehicle operators must be licensed and certified.
- All motorized vehicles would be licensed and permitted per State of Arizona regulations.
- Dolan Springs Open Space Committee would be required to obtain written authorization from all private property landowners.

Alternatives Considered:

Proposed Action:

Conduct guided recreation outings for the general public in recognition of National Trails Day (NTD). This event would be co-sponsored by the Dolan Springs Open Space Committee (DSOSC) and the BLM, KFO on Saturday, October 29, 2011, between the hours of 7 am and 12 noon. Staging would be in downtown Dolan Springs. Separate guided recreation outings are proposed for hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) riders and four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicle drivers. (See Maps) Travel by hiking, mountain bikes, ATVs and 4WDs would be on existing roads and trails, many of which are located on existing

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The “**No Action**“ **Alternative** was considered for this project. Under the “No Action” alternative, the proposed rides would not occur.

Appeals: This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the Kingman Field Office, 2755 Mission Blvd., Kingman, AZ 86401 within 30 days from the date of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) for a stay (suspension) of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal (43 CFR 4.21). A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with the Kingman Field Office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay:

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant’s success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Approved By:

_____/ s / Ruben A. Sánchez
Ruben Sanchez
Field Manager, Kingman Field Office

10/20/2011
Date

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE SCOPING FORM

Proposal: Conduct National Trails Day event near Dolan Springs, AZ

DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2011-0042-EA _____
NEPA Document Number RMP Implementation No.

S:/BLMshare: _____
Document Location

Land Description:

Applicant: Dolan Springs Community Council – Open Space Trail System

Authorization:

INVOLVEMENT: Indicate in the left column which disciplines need to provide information into the EA.

Needed Input (X)	Discipline	Signature
	Lands	
	Minerals	
X	Range	/s/ Abe Clark 10/18/2011 /s/ Michael Blanton 10/18/2011
X	Wild Horse and Burro	/s/ Chad Benson 10/18/2011
X	General Recreation	/s/ Len Marceau 10/17/2011
X	Cultural and Paleontological Resources	/s/ Tim Watkins 10/18/2011
X	Wilderness	/s/ Len Marceau 10/17/2011
	Soils	
	Surface and Groundwater Quality/Water Rights	
	Air Quality	
X	Wildlife	/s/ Rebecca L. Peck 10/17/2011
X	Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals	/s/ Rebecca L. Peck 10/17/2011
X	Migratory Birds	/s/ Rebecca L. Peck 10/17/2011
	Surface Protection	
	Hazardous Materials	
	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	
	Visual Resources	
	Socio-Economics/Environmental Justice	
	General Botany/Noxious Weeds	
	Energy Policy	

Writer: Len Marceau

Date: 8/2/2011

Environmental Coordinator: David Brock

Date: 8/2/2011

Field Manager: Don McClure

Date: 8/2/2011